भारतीय खाद्य निगम (एफ सी आई) ने दिनांक 23.2.95 को नेपाल खाद्य निगम के साथ 30,000 मी. टन चावल की आपूर्ति करने का एक करार किया जिसमें से 2,000 मी. टन चावल मार्च, 1995 में जहाज द्वारा भेजा गया। भारत सरकार अप्रैल, 1996 में कोरिया लोकतांत्रिक जनवादी गणराज्य को मदद करने के लिए 1000 मी. टन का दान करने के लिए सहमत हुई। वर्ष 1994-95 और 1995-96 के दौरान निर्यात किए गए चावल और गेहूँ की मात्रा और कीमत के देशवार आंकड़े भारतीय विदेश व्यापार की मंथली स्टेटिसटिक्स (वर्ष 1994-95 और 1995-96 के वार्षिक अंक) में उपलब्ध हैं जिसकी प्रतियां संसद पुस्तकालय में उपलब्ध हैं।

(ग) गेहूं और चावल के निर्यात को बढ़ाने के लिए जो कुछ कदम उठाए गए हैं उनमें शामिल हैं--न्यूनतम निर्यात मूल्य एवं मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंध समाप्त करना, वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान एफ सी आई को सरकारी स्टॉक से 5 लाख मी. टन उत्तम और सर्वोत्तम किस्म के चावल का तथा 5 लाख मी. टन गैर-टुड्म गेहूं का निर्यात/बिक्री करने की अनुमति देना, रियायती दर पर ऋण का प्रबंध, उन्नत पैकेजिंग के लिए निर्यातकों को सहायता प्रदान करना, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण का सुदृढ़ीकरण, क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकें आयोजित करना तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मेलों/प्रदर्शनियों में भागीदारी।

Hike in coal royalty

1004. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for hike in coal royalty as demanded by the State-Governments;

(b) if so, the present royalty rates and number of times these have been revised during the past three years and percentage of increase each time and financial implications thereof, State-wise;

(c) the present demand of the State Governments for hike in coal royalty; and

(d) details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon alongwith present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 11.10.1994 except for the State of Meghalaya, Revision in respect of State of Meghalaya was notified on 13.1.95. The existing rates of royalty for various grades of coal are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

In terms of the proviso to Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to enhance royalty rates on coal not more than once during any period of three years. The next revision, therefore falls due after 10.10.97. Action has been initiated to set up a Study Group to review the Royalty rates on coal and to make recommendations on the matter for the consideration of Government.

Statement

The existing rates of royalty for various grades of coal in all states and UTs except in West Bengal and Tripura

(A) *Rates of Royalty on coal produced in all States and Union Territories except the States of West Bengal and Meghalya*

(i) Group I Coals:	
(a) Coking Coal Steel Grade-I Steel Grade-II Washery Grade-I	One hundred and ninety five rupees only per tonne.
(b) Hand picked coal produced in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Nagaland.	One hundred and fifty rupees only per tonne.

(ii) Group-II Coals:	
(a) Coking Coal Washery Grade -II Coking Coal Washery Grade-III	One hundred and thirty five rupees only per tonne.
(b) Semi-Coking Coal Grade-I Semi-Coking Coal Grade-III	
(c) Non-Coking Coal Grade-A Non-Coking Coal Grade-B	
(d) ungraded run of Mine Coal produced in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Nagaland.	One hundred and twenty rupees only per tonne.
(iii) Group-III Coals:	
(a) Coking Coal Washery Grade-IV	Ninty five rupees only per tonne.
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-C	
(iv) Group -IV Coals:	
(a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-D	Seventy rupees only
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-E	per tonne.
(v) Group-V Coals:	
(a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-F	Fifty rupees only per
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-G	tonne.
Lignite: Two rupees fity paise only per tonne.	
(vi) Group-VI Coals:	
Coal produced in the State of Andhra Pradesh	Seventy five rupees only per tonne.
(B) *Rates of Royalty on coal produced in the States of West Bengal and Meghalya*	
(i) Group-I Coals:	
(a) Coking Coal Steel Grade-I Steel Grade-II Washery Grade-I	Seven rupees only per tonne.
(b) Hand picked coal produced in the State of Meghalaya	One hundred and fifty rupees only per tonne
(ii) Group-II Coals:	
(a) Coking Coal Washery Grade -II Coking Coal Washery Grade-III	Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
(b) Semi-Coking Coal Grade-I Semi-Coking Coal Grade-II	Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.

(c) Non-Coking Coal Grade-A Non-Coking Coal Grade-B	Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
(d) ungraded run of Mine Coal produced in the State of Meghalaya.	One hundred and twenty rupees only per tonne.
(iii) Group-III Coals	
(a) Coking Coal Washery Grade-IV	Five rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-C	
(iv) Group-IV Coals:	
(a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-D	Four rupees and thirty
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-E	paise only per tonne.
(v) Group-V Coals:	
(a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-F	Two rupees and fifty
(b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-G	paise only per tonne.

Scheme for revamping the PDS

1005. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme to revamp the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely target date for implementation of the new scheme; and

(d) the additional annual financial cost of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The matter relating to restructuring of Public Distribution System with focus on the poor is under consideration of the Government.

Value of import-export Gap

1006. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated gap between the values of import and export made during 1996-97;

(b) the estimated gap between the first three months of the current year;

(c) whether the main reasons for widening of this gap is the import value being more than the export value;

(d) if so, the increase or decrease in the value of imports and exports as compared to that in the corresponding months of the last year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per available DGCI&S data, the estimated gap between values of India's export and import during the period April-September, 1996-97 is around US$-1813.17 million. The estimated gap for the first three morths of the current year is US$-933.40 million.

(c) and (d) The trade deficit during April - Sept., 96-97 is estimated at US$ 1813.17 million which is less than the trade deficit valued at US$ 2380.71 million during April-September 1995-96.

The data on exports and imports for April-Sept., 1996-97 and for the corresponding period of the previous year is given below:

US $ Million

April-Sept.	Exports	Imports
1995-96	14684.61	17065.32
1996-97	16139.76	17952.93